



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, April 18, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

New Jersey:

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

On April 14, six trees infested with the Asian Longhorned Beetle were found in an industrial/wetland area located southeast of the Linden Municipal Airport, approximately one-half mile inside the northern border of the established Middlesex/Union Counties quarantine. The infested trees were found by one of the USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers conducting an initial survey of this area in Linden. All six infested trees were red maples. One tree had egg sites and two exit holes, the other five had multiple egg sites and no exit holes. As one of the trees had exit holes on it, this will require the need to expand the quarantine. Additionally on April 18, one infested tree, a red maple with multiple egg sites and no exit holes, was found in a wooded industrial area by the Linden Humane Society, within the establish quarantine area.

With these new finds, it is estimated that an additional 3,200 trees will require removal in Linden, mainly in wooded/industrial areas. This brings the total number of trees to be removed in the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB quarantine to approximately 8,600.

Program personnel are also making preparations to begin tree treatments in the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB quarantine area. Treatments are slated to start May 9. Approximately 20,200 trees will be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid. The insecticide will be injected into the tree's trunk or into the soil surrounding the tree.

As of April 21, 3,840 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area. Of those, 506 were infested host trees and 3,334 were high risk exposed host trees. Crews continued removing trees this week in areas of Rahway and Carteret.

Currently, 14 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Ten USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers, along with 13 contracted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continue to survey trees in the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine; to date a total of 11,942 trees have been inspected.

On April 25, the NJ DEP Forest Service in cooperation with Mayor Daniel J. Reiman of Carteret will host a public meeting to announce the reforestation plan for Carteret. Representatives from NJ DEP will explain all the parts of the reforestation process.

Jersey City/Hoboken ALB Infestation

Four program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area.

Tree treatments in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area are slated to begin April 25 with approximately 900 trees to be treated. Program officials are sending letters to residents to inform them of the upcoming treatments.

Recognition Award

The NJ Department of Agriculture and the State of New Jersey will be recognizing key individuals on April 27 and May 2 from the federal and state agencies of the ALB Cooperative Eradication Project for their a dedication, contribution, and collaborative team effort in eradicating ALB from NJ.

New York:

As of April 19, 27 ALB infested trees have been found in Massapequa, well within the core of the established ALB quarantine boundaries. Program personnel continue to conduct delimiting survey of the area. To date there have been 6,223 infested trees detected in New York.

As of April 16, the team of six USDA-FS Smokejumpers conducting survey efforts in Central Park, have climbed and inspected 917 trees with no



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signs of ALB. An additional 680 trees will be inspected before the team completes its survey on or about April 30. New York Times is doing a story on the team of six USDA-FS Smokejumpers conducting survey efforts in Central Park, no publication date was provided.

Tree treatments began April 18 on Long Island using the Arborjet Trunk Injection application system. To date 535 trees have been treated in Lindenhurst. Soil treatments began April 21, on a limited basis in Manhattan. The target date for full production in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens is slated for May 2.

Magnolia Tree Earth Center in Brooklyn has entered into an agreement with the Urban & Community Forestry Council and NYS DEC to conduct a series of ALB outreach workshops with community groups and block associations this summer.

Trees New York has created an invasive species curriculum, which includes ALB, for its Citizen Pruner network as part of a grant with DEC Urban & Community Forestry Council.

Illinois:

As of April 16, a total of 41,699 trees have been surveyed for the year with no signs of ALB infestations.

Tree treatments around Chicago's Oz Park began April 18 with 1,350 trees being treated. A total of 4,375 trees are targeted for treatment.

On April 21, 2005 the Deregulation Signing Ceremony, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the City of Chicago's Department of Streets and Sanitation, was held. The event received heavy media coverage to include: The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Sun-Times, WLS-TV, Channel 7 (ABC affiliate), WBBM-TV, Channel 2 (CBS affiliate), WGN-TV Channel 9, FOX-TV Channel 32, NBC-TV Channel 4, CLTV - Chicago's 24 Hour News Network and WBBM-780 News Radio. Anticipate stories to air tonight (Thursday April 21) and run in tomorrow's editions of the Tribune and Sun.

Source: Christine Markham

Mexican Fruit Fly

Here is another highlight for this week:

Effective April 15, 2005, all five production zones of the Rio Grande Valley are regulated. Citrus from all five production zones must be treated using the approved treatments listed in CFR 301.64, and be certified by PPQ officials prior to shipment to other citrus producing states.

Production zone four became regulated March 24, 2005
Production zone one became regulated March 07, 2005.
Production zone five became regulated April 01, 2005
Production zone two became regulated April 08, 2005
Production zone three became regulated April 15, 2005

The Rio Grande Valley is divided into five production zones. Each is trapped at the density of five traps per square mile, and 30 million sterile flies are released weekly over commercial and urban hosts in production zones 1-5.

Source: Robert Vlasik

Soybean Rust

A weekly National Soybean Rust Conference Call for various stakeholders was convened April 20, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Another national stakeholder conference call is planned for April 27, 2005, at 1 PM. Approximately 40 participants representing USDA, APHIS, ARS, CSREES, academia, and industry were present on the call. The Risk Management Agency is developing a brochure, with input from CSREES, on "good farming practices." The Agricultural Research Service shared plans for soybean rust surveillance in the Yucatan, in cooperation with authorities in Mexico. APHIS reported approximately 224,000 "hits" on the soybean rust website for April, with Brazil, Canada, and Italy as the top three countries visiting the site. APHIS updated the Federal/State roles document describing diagnostic procedures, to include industry, on its internet site. An "email push" will be provided to subscribers of this service by next week. A revised "coordinated framework" document, reflecting roles and responsibilities that have been fine-tuned since February



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4, 2005, should be posted to the USDA website in the very near future

Source: Matt Royer

Technical Advisory Group

PPQ participated in the annual meeting of the Technical Advisory Group for Biological Control Agents of Weeds (TAG) on April 12-14 at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center in Davie, FL. The TAG is an independent, interagency committee whose role is to provide an exchange of scientific information and advice to help researchers and Federal regulatory officials evaluate potential effects of a biological control agent on the target plant and nontarget species in North America. Robert Flanders, Branch Chief of Permits, Registrations & Imports, Plant Health Programs, provided information about PPQ pest permit policy changes, e-permits and the planned revision of the plant pest regulations. Joe Vorgetts, Permit Scientist, provided an update on the environmental documentation for permit applications to release biological control agents the TAG previously reviewed. Al Tasker, APHIS Weed Program Manager, briefed the TAG on the status of the Noxious Weed Control & Eradication Act of 2004. Polly Lehtonen, Executive Secretary of the TAG, led a review of the APHIS-sponsored TAG web site and the TAG Manual.

Source: Polly Lehtonen

Cotton Pest Programs

Boll Weevil Eradication - APHIS staff met with cotton industry leaders in Memphis, TN, on April 14, 2005, to discuss the proposed federal regulations for boll weevil. The session was productive as APHIS presented a general overview of the draft regulations, and listened to growers' concerns regarding long-term protection from reinfestation.

The industry encouraged APHIS to proceed immediately with publication of the proposed rule, and indicated its willingness to pursue additional regulatory authority for the agency, if this becomes necessary.

Source: Bill Grefenstette

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Maryland:

100 sentinel ash trees have been planted around Maryland's "hot sites." This includes 46 trees at the Prince Georges County nursery site plus 14 placed in the surrounding 1/2 mile buffer; 20 trees at the Ft. Washington site; and, 20 trees in Odenton at the 32-170 interchange. An additional 50 ash trees will be planted around recreational and park areas where there has been major activity from visiting residents from Michigan.

Michigan:

New County Find: 1 EAB larva found in Boyne City, Charlevoix County, MI (northwest portion of Lower Peninsula) was confirmed by Dr. James Zablotny on March 28. A tip from a Great Lakes Energy Power tree line trimming crew led to the discovery of the insect in an 18" dbh tree. The tree was in the Young State Park, half way up the section line. The line trimming crew also mentioned they had run into similar symptoms on private land in the area. MDNR Parks and Recreation Bureau Supervisor, Jean Kokx, collected the sample and submitted it to USDA for identification. Ms. Kokx said the trees were a distance from the actual camping area, but there are cottages within a short distance from the park.

Michigan will be closing the Riverview marshalling yard on April 15, 2005. This yard has consistently had low volume (5%) participation, with only 50% ash wood. MDA anticipates opening another two additional yards this spring, one in the city of Detroit and the other in Lansing.

Pamida Nursery was convicted on two counts of moving prohibited ash nursery stock products from the quarantine area. A total of \$400 in fines was levied in conjunction with six months probation.

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is May 22-28. Michigan will recognize this with a firewood blitz at state highway rest stop areas on Memorial Day.

MDA staff will begin setting up trap trees on Monday, April 18. Trap trees will also be placed within 200 yards of each positive at outlier sites.



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Gateway Sites:

The two 1/2 mile ash tree removals in the Hillsdale area in the southern Lower Peninsula along the Ohio border are complete. Some site restoration has yet to be completed on one property.

A total of 48 known infested trees were removed in Presque Isle, the extreme northeast county of the Lower Peninsula. Another 272 ash trees were scheduled to be girdled beginning the week of April 1. MDA and DNR are exploring the market value of ash to be removed here.

The removal of known infested trees in Cheboygan (northernmost county in Lower Peninsula) is complete. An additional 64 surrounding ash trees were girdled. DNR is coordinating removal of ash.

Ohio:

There are 12 sites in the Toledo area that are geared up for eradication, but these cannot be completed before adult flight period. ODA will perform 200 yard suppression cuts around known infested trees and finish up the 1/2 mile cuts as time and funding permit. The City of Toledo is removing ash street trees.

The North Baltimore site has expanded out into Allen Township in Hancock County. This will initiate another addition to the EAB quarantine for Ohio. Three larvae were found in Van Buren in ash logs by ODA Inspector T. Brion. These logs were destined for several Indiana sawmills. USDA Identifier Dr. Zablotny confirmed the identification on March 23rd.

A maximum of 3,500 trap trees have been planned for the "gateway area" in Ohio. Some personnel have already been switched to this program activity in order to assist with gaining property permission from home and woodlot owners in preparation of trap tree production and destructive sampling.

Firewood blitz activities are being scheduled for Arbor Day and Memorial Day in Ohio as part of public outreach and education activities during Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week.

Virginia:

80 balled and burlaped sentinel ash trees have been placed for EAB surveillance in Virginia. No naturalized ash were used due to permit/permission issues.

Source: Deborah McPartlan